

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE TORRANCE WATER COMMISSION**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Torrance Water Commission convened in a regular session at 7:03 p.m. on Monday, May 20, 2010 in the West Annex Meeting Room at Torrance City Hall.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

Present: Commissioners Deemer, Lefevre, McGee, White, and  
Chairperson See.

Absent: Commissioners Haddon and Lew.

Also Present: Public Works Director Beste,  
Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich, and  
Metropolitan Water District Director Wright.

**MOTION:** Commissioner White moved to grant an excused absence to Commissioner Lew for the May 20, 2010 Commission meeting. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

**3. FLAG SALUTE**

Commissioner Deemer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING**

**MOTION:** Commissioner White moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner McGee seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**5A. MINUTES OF JANUARY 21, 2010**

**MOTION:** Commissioner McGee moved to approve the January 21, 2010 Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Lefevre seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioners Haddon and Lew).

**MINUTES OF MARCH 18, 2010**

**MOTION:** Commissioner White moved for the approval of the March 18, 2010 Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner McGee seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioners Haddon and Lew).

**6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM PUBLIC**

None.

**7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**7A. UPDATE REGARDING STATUS OF WATER SUPPLY ALLOCATION PROGRAM REQUIRING REDUCTION IN METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT IMPORTED WATER DELIVERIES**

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich reported that the City would remain in allocation for 2010 and 2011. He noted that the MWD Board would not act on this until July 2010; however, even though the water situation has improved, MWD has depleted its water reserves. He stated that the City is 17% below the allocation for MWD and water usage has been steadily declining the past six years, in large part due to conservation efforts and business cycle effects.

WMD Director Wright initiated a brief discussion centered on the 20/20 Plan that mandates that per capita water usage is reduced 20% by 2020.

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich stated that most water agencies will have to use 2009 as a base year but that Torrance would have flexibility in choosing a base year due to its recycled water use and groundwater pumping. He noted that the Department of Water Resources is in the process of developing the guidelines for the 20/20 Plan and final requirements would not be determined for another three to four months.

Public Works Director Beste stated that Torrance already has low water usage and have a large business sector so meeting the 20/20 goals will be challenging. He noted that the seawater barrier is going to 100% reclaimed water so the City should receive even more credit for this.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**8B. RENEWAL OF PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH SOUTH BAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (SBCCOG) FOR MARKETING AND PROMOTIONAL WATER CONSERVATION SERVICES AND RELATED ACTIVITIES**

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich described SBCCOG functions and its South Bay Environmental Center (SBEC) in the City of Lawndale that promotes energy, water, and other resource conservation within the South Bay community. He stated that the City has been in a partnership agreement with SBCCOG since 2007 to provide marketing and promotional services for Torrance Municipal Water (TMW) through the SBEC. He noted that SBCCOG provides a valuable service to enhance TMW's conservation programs that includes organizing workshops, seminars, and outreach programs. They also have an agreement with West Basin Municipal Water District in supporting "Cash for Kitchens" for large restaurants/hotels and offers assistance for applying for rebates. He advised that the current agreement with SBCCOG expires at the end of June 2010 and recommended that the Commission provide conceptual support for an extension of this agreement through fiscal year 2010-11.

Responding to Commissioner Lefevre's inquiry, he stated that the partnership fee is a fixed \$3,150 per quarter and comes out of the Water Fund.

Commissioners expressed interest in having a representative come to a future Commission meeting.

**MOTION:** Commissioner White moved to provide conceptual approval for the City to execute an extension to the current agreement with the South Bay Cities Council of Governments through fiscal year 2010-11. Commissioner McGee seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioners Haddon and Lew).

**8C. RENEWAL OF PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH THE WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT (WBMWD) FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS**

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich provided background on the partnership agreement with West Basin Municipal Water District for the implementation of water conservation programs targeted primarily to the multi-family, food service, commercial, industrial, and institutional sectors. He stated that an extension of the current agreement would provide for implementation of a number of carry-over and new conservation programs that include a restroom retrofit program, a landscape audit and irrigation retrofit program, a multi-family energy/water efficient retrofit program, and the Ocean Friendly Landscape workshops. He noted that the program is funded by \$190,000 FEAP capital improvement program along with various grant and other outside funding sources. To date, approximately \$60,000 has been expended from the FEAP program and renewing the partnership would enable TMW to leverage internal funding by augmenting TMW funds with additional grant and other outside funding sources.

In response to Commissioner McGee's inquiry, he stated that 250 toilets were changed out at New Horizons as well as replacement of fluorescent bulbs, aerators, and low-flow showerheads.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Lefevre moved to recommend that the Commission provide conceptual support for entering into an extension of the existing partnership agreement with West Basin Municipal Water District through fiscal year 2010-11. Commissioner McGee seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Haddon and Lew).

**8C. PRESENTATION REGARDING NEW WHOLESALE WATER RATES**

Public Works Director Beste reported that MWD adopted a two-year increase in water rates: 7.5% effective January 1, 2011 and 7.5% effective January 2012, adding that the second increase may get moved up to September 2011 depending on MWD's cash flow. He noted that the current rate for treated water is \$701 per acre-foot and the MWD projected rate effective January 1, 2012 is \$810 per acre-foot. He discussed some of the current and future key factors that are impacting MWD rates that include a decrease in water sales and Bay-Delta Remediation Costs. He was pleased to announce that the State Water Project allocation is going up to 45% and may go higher, and that the judge may be changing some of the thoughts on the biological opinion regarding the Delta Smelt and salmon.

MWD Wright discussed MWD's partnership in building a reservoir near the Mexican border.

Public Works Director Beste reported that the Water Replenishment District (WRD) held a series of five rate workshops and adopted a groundwater pumping assessment of \$205 per acre-foot beginning July 1, 2010 from the current \$182 per

acre-foot. He discussed key factors impacting the groundwater assessment that include the cost of MWD replenishment water at the full service Tier 1 rate, reserve levels, and costs associated with mitigation and barrier projects. He stated that recycled water rates are increasing from \$602 to \$716 due to increasing costs for treatment.

Responding to Commissioner Deemer's inquiry, he stated that expansion of the Goldsworthy Desalter would be a cost effective source of water and that WRD has applied for grants for the expansion.

A brief discussion centered on cleaning up the saltwater plume.

In response to an inquiry from Commissioner Deemer regarding power costs, MWD Director Wright stated that a foot of water in Lake Mead generates about \$100,000 worth of power.

## **9. METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

MWD Director Wright distributed his April 19, 2010 and May 17, 2010 reports regarding MWD activities to the Mayor and Council Members as well as maps showing the status of water storage on the Colorado River and State Water Project. Referring to the Colorado River, he stated that Lake Mead and Lake Powell are the two main reservoirs and hold 60 million acre-feet of storage in case of long periods of drought. He noted that Lake Mead is currently 43% of capacity and Lake Powell is 57%.

He stated that there are only 6 million acre-feet of storage in Northern California, noting that Lake Shasta is the main reservoir for the Central Valley Project and Lake Oroville is the main reservoir for the State Water Project. He stated that Lake Oroville is 67% of capacity, adding that empty space is kept in the reservoir because it is an earthen dam and in case it is needed for flood control.

MWD Director Wright discussed the two-year rate increase adopted by MWD in April 2010 but pointed out that it would not cover cost of service for 2010-11 budget year. He stated that they are \$20 million short and that one proposal was to cut back \$2 million from the conservation budget. He added that he felt this would be sending the wrong message when residents are being asked to conserve water and staff was directed to find the \$2 million somewhere else.

Discussion centered on the November bond issue, ocean desalination, and the proposal to build two tunnels 18 miles under the Bay Delta.

## **10. WEST BASIN WATER ASSOCIATION REPORT**

Public Works Director Beste reported that West Basin Water District discussed its Redondo Beach desalination demonstration plant and that the Water Master reported a slight increase in pumping as compared to last year. He stated that the West Basin Water Association elected new Board members and that Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden is now Vice-President.

## **11. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Public Works Director Beste presented the Monthly Department Report for April 2010. He reported a decrease of 17% in overall water production in April 2010 as

compared to April 2009. He stated that there was only one water main break incident and provided an update of the Goldsworthy Desalter facility that is back up and running. He reported that they are starting the RFP process for Wells #9 and 10.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Deemer moved to accept and file the Monthly Department Report as presented. Commissioner White seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioners Haddon and Lew).

## **12. ORALS**

**12A.** Commissioner Deemer inquired about sump development and staff advised him that they have not received a grant yet and that it is probably two years out.

**12B.** Commissioner Deemer shared information about the San Gabriel Basin and plans to create a wilderness area.

**12C.** Commissioner Lefevre stated that he enjoyed attending the West Basin Desalination Plant event. He stated that Surfrider and Heal the Bay have concerns that intake would affect sea life.

**12D.** Commissioner Lefevre stated that the Diamond Valley Lake event on May 20, 2010 was interesting.

**12E.** Commissioner Lefevre mentioned that Australia has 80 ocean desalination plants and has a per capita usage of 50 gallons per day, adding that residents are required to use "gray" water for washing their cars and watering the lawns.

**12F.** Public Works Director Beste distributed and briefly reviewed the City Budget Update presented by the City Manager's office and encouraged Commissioners to attend Budget Workshops on May 25 and June 15, 2010.

**12G.** Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich announced a Gardening and Landscape Workshop on June 19, 2010 at the Nakano Theatre.

**12H.** Chairperson See congratulated MWD Director Wright on his 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

## **13. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** At 8:57 p.m., Commissioner McGee moved to adjourn the meeting to June 17, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission meeting room. The motion was seconded by Commissioner White and, hearing no objection, Chairperson See so ordered.

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| Approved as Submitted<br>June 17, 2010<br>s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk |
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